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003/014

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U.S. Serial No. 10/620,674

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Atty. Docket No. PD-200225

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the specification of the Application, please amend paragraph 0004 as hereinafter indicated.

[0004] Currently, a user typically has a regular remote control and a slave client box. In order to completely disconnect from the network, the user must turn off both the television and the slave client. Similarly, to connect to the network, the user must turn on both the television and the slave client. If the user does not remember to turn off the slave client when the network services are not needed or are not being utilized and the bandwidth on the network is completely utilized, then then an appropriate message will be displayed displayed on the television screen informing the user to go and turn off the slave client in another room or location.

Please also amend paragraph 0012 in the specification as hereinafter indicated.

[0012] Turning now to Figure 1 the drawings, which Figure 1 is a block diagram schematically illustrating the preferred method and system for optimizing network bandwidth. A preferred application for the disclosed system is as part of the DIRECTV® DIRECTV® Satellite System, however, it may be utilized for, or as part of, a variety of other applications. It [[will]] is to be understood that the system can be utilized at single family homes, commercial establishments, multiple dwelling units, or at a variety of other locations. The principal components of the system 10 include a master or gateway box 12, one or more slave clients 14, a television 16, one or more remote control units 18, and an antenna 20. These components generally form an audio/video network system. The network system 10 has a given bandwidth that is limited in its throughput as defined by the technology being used, such as, for example, phone lines, power lines, wireless connections, or any other type of network connections.

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Please also amend paragraph 0013 in the specification as hereinafter indicated.

[0013] As shown, the gateway box 12, such as a Master IRD for the DIRECTV® DIRECTV® system, has necessary hardware and software components therein, which allow it to operate as required. For example, the gateway box 12 preferably includes a cable modem and multiple ports that allow for connection of one or more of the slave clients 14. The gateway box 12 is preferably in communication with the antenna 20 through a coaxial cable 22 or the like to allow the gateway box 12 to receive audio and visual information received at the antenna 20. The gateway box 12 may also communicate with the antenna 20 in order to cause the antenna 20 to transmit information as desired. The antenna 20 preferably receives information from and transmits information to a remote host computer system via satellite communication, as is well known in the art.

Please also amend paragraph 0015 in the specification as hereinafter indicated.

[0015] Additionally, the gateway box 12 is preferably in communication with a plurality of slave clients 14, such as slave IRDs for the DIRECTV® DIRECTV® system. The disclosed embodiment illustrates three slave clients 14, however, it [[will]] is to be understood that any number of slave clients 14 may be utilized as desired by the user. The gateway box 12 preferably distributes authorized services to the slave clients 14 within the network via communication lines 32. Each of the slave clients 14 preferably has a television 16 associated therewith.

Please also amend paragraph 0019 in the specification as hereinafter indicated.

[0019] In the sleep mode, the slave clients 14 can update their databases, like APG, which is part of the DIRECTV® DIRECTV® system, so there will be no "warm up" time required if a particular slave client 14 has not been used for several hours to several days or longer. Thus, in the sleep mode, the slave client 14 will allow recording by utilizing the gateway box 12 as the access.

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Lastly, please also amend paragraph 0021 in the specification as hereinafter indicated.

[0021] As shown in this exemplary embodiment, the television 18 is connected to the slave client 14 through the VCR 32. However, in accordance with the preferred embodiment, the VCR 32 and other entertainment devices will be treated the same way. That is, if the television 16 is turned off, then the slave client 14 will be turned to an off or sleep mode, as predetermined by the system or as selected by the user. This is preferably accomplished because, as the slave client 14 has learned the remote control codes associated with the different configurations, it can determine if the VCR 32 or any electronic equipment through which the television 16 is connected is turned on or off and thus whether the television is turned on or off. The smart slave clients 14 will have the same affect effect of optimizing network bandwidth. In fact, the smart slave clients 14 will know how much bandwidth is being used and how much is available and thus will be able to serve the user appropriately. It will be understood that the smart remote control units 18 and the smart slave clients 14 may be used independently of one another or may be used collectively or together.